

only one duckling remained. To the best of our knowledge this is the first breeding record for this species from the island.

— PETER GRAHAM, 14 Kingsway, Nedlands and DENIS SAUNDERS, 24 Victoria St., Guildford.

Additions to the Herpetofauna of Wongan Hills — During a Naturalist Club excursion to Wongan Hills on 28-30 September 1985 two species of reptile and one amphibian were recorded as new for the area.

These are as follows;

Lymnodynastes dorsalis — Five found while spotlighting at Freshwater Pond ca 5 km north-west of Mortlock Reserve.

Diplodactylus spinigerus — Adult found under dead shrub in mallee woodland adjacent to Fowlers Gully.

Tiliqua occipitalis — Sub-adult excavated from burrow at Mortlock Reserve.

The herpetofauna of the Wongan Hills was listed by Dell & Harold (1977 in *The Natural History of the Wongan Hills*, W.A. Naturalists' Club Handbook No. 11).

— D. ROBINSON, 3 Wanbrow Way, Duncraig, W.A. 6023

White-Backed Swallow on Rottnest — Vagrant or Pioneer? — A White-backed Swallow *Cheramoeca leucosternum* was identified at Kingstown on Rottnest Island during the last week of November 1985. This is the first record for the island. It may have been a vagrant or a further step in a range extension that has established this species around Perth in recent years.

The bird was first observed flying with Welcome Swallows and Tree Martins. It called continuously on the wing. Whether in response to this or its appearance, it was repeatedly chased for as long as a minute by Tree Martins and Welcome Swallows. The observations were made near a deep path blow-out which leads to the rifle-range. There was a fresh burrow in a 2m-high bank close to where the bird landed during the day, and from which it emerged when the hole was approached at dusk. Only one White-backed Swallow was seen at the rifle-range but the same or another individual was sighted near the main lighthouse on 30 November.

Many bird species are likely to be recorded as vagrants on near-coastal islands such as Rottnest. Of greater interest is whether a new arrival will become established. Many pairs of Rainbow Bee-eater now migrate to breed near Kingstown but were only first recorded in 1977 (Saunders *et al* 1981. *Birds of Rottnest Island*). Regular migration of another burrow roosting and nesting species, the White-backed Swallow would suggest that human creation of suitable nest-sites has been a factor in this expansion of the island's avian community.

— BOYD WYKES, 26 Kathleen St., Cottesloe W.A.